

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 H-03

SS-20 NEA-14 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00

NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11

IGA-02 PM-07 /199 W

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R 061418Z MAY 74

FM ANENBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE AASHDC 3948

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSS ATHENS

ANCONSUL ADANA 3546

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 3420

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: INTERVIEWS WITH PRIMIN AND FONMIN ON OPIUM POPPY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: IN TWO RECENT PRESS INTERVIEWS, IRIMIN ECEVIT HAS INSISTED THAT TURKEY CAN CONTROL OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION AND THAT DECISION TO GROW POPPIES IS DOMESTIC MATTER. FONMIN RUNES SAID DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PLANT WOULD BE TAKEN IN OCTOBER. BOTH HAVE CITED ALLEGED CONTRADICTION BETWEEN WORLD OPIUM SHORTFALL AND BAN ON TURKISH PRODUCTION. GUNES EXPRESSED VIEW THAT (PRESUMABLY FOREIGN) ECONOMIC AID TO SOLVE FARMERS' PROBLEM WAS INAPPROPRIATE. HE CONCLUDED WITH SUGGESTION THAT US MIGHT HELP IN ADVISING HOW "EFFECTIVE CULTIVATION

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COULD BE POSSIBLE." END SUMMARY.

1. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN MILLIYET MAY 5, PRIMIN GAVE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT POPPY SITUATION:

QUOTE I BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE THE DOUBTS FELT AT THE BEGINNING ON THE SUBJECT OF OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION, TURKEY HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE EVERYONE WHO HAS GOOD WILL ABOUT ITS GOOD INTENTIONS AND ITS DETERMINATION TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES SO THAT THE OPIUM POPPY THAT WILL BE CULTIVATED IN TURKEY WILL NOT HARM HUMANITY. POPPY CULTIVATION IS A DOMESTIC AFFAIR OF TURKEY. TURKEY ITSELF DECIDES WHAT TO CULTIVATE AND WHAT NOT TO CULTIVATE ON ITS TERRITORY. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPPY, WE ARE CONSIDERING THE STRICTEST CONTROL TO PREVENT ANY HARM BEING DONE TO HUMANITY. UNQUOTE.

2. ENGLISH TEXTS OF RECENT INTERVIEWS GIVEN NEW YORK TIMES ATHENS BUREAU CHIEF BY PRIMIN BULENT ECEVIT AND FONMIN TURN GUNES APPEARED HERE IN OUTLOOK MAY 1. SINCE THESE TEXTS MAY VARY FROM WHAT WAS PUBLISHED IN U.S., PORTIONS CONCERNING OPIUM QUESTION ARE QUOTED OR SUMMARIZED IN FOLLOWING PARAS (ENGLISH HAS BEEN CORRECTED WHERE APPROPRIATE):

A. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE REACTIONS IN US IF POPPY CULTIVATION RESUMED, ECEVIT OBSERVED:

QUOTE I WOULD NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON THE MATTER. BUT WE THINK THAT AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY'S DECISION ON WHAT TO GROW AND WHAT NOT TO GROWN ON ITS OWN SOIL SHOULD NOT BE A DIPLOMATIC ISSUE. THIS IS AN AGRICULTURAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEM FOR US, AND AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL IT IS A HUMAN PROBLEM FOR US. WE ARE AS MUCH INTERESTED AS AMERICA ON THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF OPIUM. WE ARE AS MUCH CONCERNED IN SUCH EFFECTS AS THE US. WE ARE WILLING TO GIVE EVERY ASSURANCE, NOT ONLY IN WORDS BUT ALSO IN MEASURES, THAT OPIUM GROWING IN TURKEY WILL NOT BE A NEGATIVE FACTOR FOR PEOPLE BEYOND OUR BOUNDARIES. WE BELIEVE THAT  
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EFFICIENT TECHNICAL MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN TO PREVENT THE MISUSE OF OPIUM. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN TAKE THESE MEASURES. AFTER ALL, OPIUM HAS ALWAYS BEEN USED FOR BOTH GOOD AND BAD PURPOSES. IT IS AN ESSENTIAL ITEM FOR MEDICINE, AND IT HAS TO BE GROWN SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD. WHY SOME OF IT SHOULD NOT BE GROWN IN TURKEY, IS BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING.  
END QUOTE.

B. GUNES, WHEN ASKED HIS POSITION ON POPPY CULTIVATION,

REMARKED:

QUOTE I HAVE GIVEN INFORMATION (ON OPIUM) TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS UNTIL NOW, AND I AM SURPRISED TO SEE THAT THIS MATTER HAS NOT BEEN FULLY UNDERSTOOD, AND THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE TRUE AND RELEVANT FACTS.

QUOTE THE OPIUM POPPY BAN HAS HAD ITS DRAWBACKS FROM SEVERAL VIEWPOINTS - FROM THE VIEWPOINTS OF BOTH TURKEY AND THE WORLD.

QUOTE AS A RESULT OF THE BAN IN TURKEY, THERE HAS BEEN A SERIOUS SHORTAGE IN WORLD-WIDE PRODUCTION FOR THE LEGAL CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM. THIS DEFICIT HAS BEEN MET BY RELEASING OR UNBLOCKING STOCKS THAT THE US HAD FOR WARTIME PURPOSES. THIS DEFICIT REQUIRED MEASURES TO INCREASE POPPY CULTIVATION IN CERTAIN REGIONS OF THE WORLD. IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND EVEN THE US GOVERNMENT ARE WORKING ON MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT SUCH AN INCREASE.

QUOTE PARALLEL TO THIS DEFICIT, THE FARMERS IN TURKEY WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD GROWN POPPIES HAVE EXPERIENCED A VERY SEVERE ECONOMIC CRISIS. STEPS TO REMOVE THIS POVERTY ARE NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR DESIRABLE BY MEANS OF ECONOMIC AID. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO REMOVE THIS POVERTY WITH ECONOMIC AID BECAUSE IN THE OPIUM GROWING REGION PEOPLE MADE USE OF THE POPPY IN MORE WAYS THAN JUST EXTRACTING THE OPIUM GUM. THE POPPY WAS USED IN THEIR DAILY LIFE.

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QUOTE FURTHERMORE, SUBSTITUTE MEASURES TO SUSTAIN THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE POPULATION IN THIS AREA WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE RESULTS ONLY IN THE LONG RUN. UNTIL THAT TIME IS REACHED, THE INTERIM PROBLEM OF SUPPORTING THE POPULATION ARISES, WHICH REQUIRES SOME FORM OF MONETARY PAYMENTS UNTIL THE LONG-TERM RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED. IN THE OPINION OF OUR PEASANTS, WHICH I THINK IS JUSTIFIED, THIS IS A FORM OF HAND-OUT WHICH THEY DO NOT BELIEVE TO BE IN ACCORD WITH THEIR HONOR.

QUOTE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE THE TURKISH PUBLIC OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF WORLD-WIDE OPIUM PRODUCTION ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE SUBJECTION OF PEOPLE TO GREAT HARDSHIPS BECAUSE OF THE BAN ON THE OTHER.

QUOTE WHILE CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO PLANT OPIUM,

TURKEY IS GIVING ALL ITS ATTENTION TO THE CONTROL PROBLEM. OUR (POPPY GROWING) FARMERS HAVE NO PURPOSE OTHER THAN RECEIVING THEIR LEGAL INCOME FROM OPIUM PRODUCTION. OUR FARMERS ESPECIALLY DO NOT INTEND TO POISON ANYONE, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, BY GOING BACK INTO POPPY CULTIVATION.

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 H-03

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NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11

IGA-02 PM-07 /199 W  
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R 061418Z MAY 74  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3949  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 3420

QUOTE I MIGHT BE ASKED WHETHER WE WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE CONTROL IF PRODUCTION IS RESUMED. MY ANSWER WOULD BE THAT WE WILL MAINTAIN THIS CONTROL AS WE NOW MAINTAIN THE DECISION TO BAN CULTIVATION. TURKEY IS PERHAPS THE LEADING COUNTRY WHICH IS DIRECTING A VERY SEVERE STRUGGLE AGAINST NARCOTICS OFFENSES AND WHICH HAS IMPOSED THE MOST HARSH PENALTIES FOR SUCH OFFENSES.

QUOTE I RECEIVE REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE AMBASSADORS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN ANKARA, AMONG THEM OF COURSE THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF THEIR CITIZENS IN TURKISH JAILS BECAUSE OF

ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS. I VERY MUCH WONDER IF ANY  
WORLD STATESMAN COULD GO BEFORE HIS PARLIAMENT AND STATE IT  
IS NOT IMPORTANT THAT FOREIGNERS TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS, BUT IT  
IS IMPORTANT THAT HIS COUNTRY'S NATIONALS SHOULD BE  
PENALIZED FOR ENGAGING IN LEGAL OPIUM PRODUCTION.  
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END QUOTE.

C. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER TURKEY HAS TAKEN  
DECISION TO RESUME POPPY CULTIVATION, GUNES REPLIED: QUOTE  
THE POPPY PLANTING SEASON IS IN OCTOBER. THE DECISION ON  
THIS SUBJECT WILL BE TAKEN THEN. TURKEY WILL TAKE THIS DECISION  
UNILATERALLY, BEARING IN MIND THE HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS  
TO WHICH IT GIVES SO MUCH IMPORTANCE. UNQUOTE.

D. IN REPLY TO REPORTERS' TAKING NOTE OF RUMORS THAT  
US AID TO TURKEY WOULD BE CUT IF POPPY CULTIVATION RESUMED,  
GUNES OBSERVED THAT SUCH AID WAS UNDER COMMON  
DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS, AND A DECREASE WOULD AFFECT NOT ONLY  
TURKEY. CONCERNING IDEA THAT US THREAT TO CUT AID COULD  
INFLUENCE TURKEY'S DECISION ON OPIUM BAN QUESTION, FONMIN  
CONTINUED THAT ANY AIRING OF SUCH A THREAT IN PARLIAMENT WOULD  
RAISE QUESTION OF VALUE OF US AS AN ALLY. QUOTE FOLLOWING  
SUCH AN EPISODE, THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND TURKEY  
COULD NOT BE MAINTAINED. UNQUOTE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER  
OPIUM QUESTION IS THREATENING US-TURKISH FRIENDSHIP, GUNES  
RESPONDED: QUOTE UP UNTIL NOW I HAVE RECEIVED NO SUGGESTION  
FROM ANY AMERICAN OFFICIAL WHICH COULD HARM THE FRIENDSHIP  
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I BELIEVE THAT THIS PROBLEM CAN  
BE SOLVED TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE TWO COUNTRIES; TURKEY  
ALSO WILL LEND A FAITHFUL EAR TO ANY SUGGESTIONS THE US MAY HAVE  
ON HOW EFFECTIVE CULTIVATION COULD BE POSSIBLE. UNQUOTE.

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3. COMMENT: WHILE GUNES' STATEMENTS REPRESENT THE LINE  
HE HAS BEEN TAKING FOR SOME TIME, ECEVIT'S REMARKS SUGGEST  
THAT HE HAS MOVED FARTHER TOWARD COMMITTING THE GOVERNMENT  
TO CONTROLLED GROWING OF POPPIES. HIS STATEMENTS REPORTED  
IN PARA 1 IS THE STRONGEST HE HAS MADE ON THIS SUBJECT SINCE  
ASSUMING THE PREMIERSHIP. IT MAY HAVE BEEN  
INTENDED IN PART TO HARDEN HIS PUBLIC POSITION BEFORE HIS  
SCHEDULED MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR AT 6 P.M., MAY 6.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAY 1974  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SNAR, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005